# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4775
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2017
Depleting Sources of Drinking Water
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

**Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the sources for drinking water are continuously depleting rapidly in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has envisaged the drinking water requirement on 70 litres per capita per day (lpcd) by the year 2022; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for enhancing the sources of drinking water and increasing its availability in rural areas?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) The shortage of drinking water in the rural areas has mainly occurred due to less rainfall in many parts of the country during the last two years which has resulted in the depletion of ground water table due to inadequate recharge. As most of rural drinking water supply schemes are based on groundwater sources, this has resulted in less yield of water during summer months in many schemes in some parts of the country. In addition, inadequate rain has also resulted in depletion of water in major reservoirs in the country and this has compounded the problem of water availability for drinking purpose.
(b) Rural drinking water is a state subject. This Ministry under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) provides financial and technical assistance to States in their efforts to provide clean drinking water to people in the rural areas on sustained basis throughout the year. Under NRDWP, a norm of 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) is being adopted for adequate drinking water supply. However, State Governments have been delegated with the powers to go for enhanced provision of 55 lpcd or 70 lpcd of drinking water supply based on the demand, availability of water and financial resources.
This Ministry has also prepared a Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2022 as per which by 2022, every rural person in the country will have access to 70 lpcd within their household premises or at a horizontal or vertical distance of not more than 50 metres from their household without barriers of social or financial discrimination. Individual States can adopt higher quantity norms, such as 100 lpcd.
(c) Monitoring of drinking water sources is not the mandate of the Ministry. However, under NRDWP, States have been allowed to utilize 10% of the funds for sustainability of sources of drinking and water conservation like rainwater harvesting, roof top water harvesting, creation of ponds, pits and trenches etc.